

REMARKS

In the final Office action dated November 18, 2003, claim 17 was allowed. Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stowe (U.S. Patent No. 5,039,120). Claims 2-11 and 13-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections over Stowe. However for the purpose of advancing prosecution, while reserving all rights to traverse the prior art rejection in a subsequent continuation application, applicant has decided to amend claims 1 and 12 to incorporate the language of claims 2 and 13, respectively.

Applicant submits that the application is in allowable form, and respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendment and issue a Notice of Allowance. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application on the rejected claims. Please contact applicant's attorney if there are any other issues to address.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

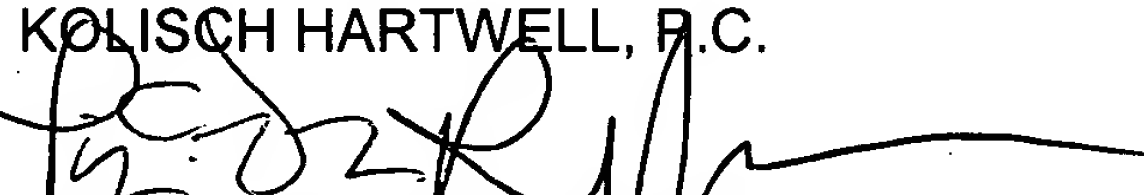
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 19, 2004.


Pamela A. Knight

Date of Signature: April 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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